the spathe. Calyx leaves four, fleshy, wedge shaped, truncate, the top and edges inflected, the whole crowded together so as to form a compact covering for the spadix. Stamens four, opposite the calyx leaves, with subulate filaments equal in length to the calyx, and oblong four celled anthers. Style four sided, tapering; stigma minute, pubescent; germ roundish, concealed within the spadix. After the spathe decays, the spadix continues to grow, and with it every part of the flowers except the anthers. When the fruit is ripe, the spadix has attained many times its original dimensions, while the calyx, filaments and style are larger, very prominent and separated from each other. Within the spadix at the base of each style is a round, fleshy seed, as large as a pea, white, tinged with green and purple, invested with a separate membranous coat, and with a prominent corculum situated in a depression at top.

The leaves which spring up some time after the flowers are numerous, large and crowded, oblong heart shaped, acute, smooth, with numerous fleshy veins of a paler colour. They spring from the root on long petioles, hollowed in front, and furnished with large oblong sheaths. They continue to increase in size for a month or two after the flowering period is past.



Mr. Nuttall, who has observed the germination of this plant, informs us that the seed does not appear to possesss any other cotyledon, than a sheathing stipule, similar to that which is afterwards produced in the plant. The principle bulk of the seed is formed by what he considers a vitellus, having the embryo exactly resembling the future plant, situated in an umbilical depression at its top. The attachment of this body to the embryo is at first by a minute *funiculus*, which enlarges and becomes more distinct during the progress of germination; but the most singular circumstance respecting it is the length of time for which it continues attached to the growing plant, apparently inert at the base of the candex for twelve or even eighteen months.

The offensive and powerful odour which characterizes this plant is not peculiar to it. The fruit of some of the North American currants, and particularly *Ribes rigens* of Michaux, a species often met with on the high mountains of the Eastern States; emits when bruised a scent exactly similar to this vegetable.

The odour of the Ictodes resides in a principle which is extremely volatile. I have not been able to separate it by distillation from any part of the plant, the decoction and the distilled water be-

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